

February 25, 2004
MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m.

Mike Sharp opened the meeting with introductions. After introductions, there was some general discussion about proposed supplemental specification distribution. MDT informed MCA that all proposed specs would be distributed at the first of the month in order to make it easier for the contractors to have the opportunity to gather comments and submit them to MDT in a timely manner. MCA also requested a formal response to the letter addressed to Mark Wissinger discussing the format and timeframe of proposed supplemental specifications. MDT stated that all specifications are not being written as method oriented specs. End result specifications will always be evaluated for applicability. MDT was then given a chance to discuss their new business. Following MDT's new business, the group moved through the agenda items and then MCA had a chance to offer its new business items to the group.

MDT/FHWA NEW BUSINESS

1. **Qualified Products List.** MDT would like to begin work on a Qualified Products List (QPL), which would be product specific (i.e. fencing items, SS1, paints, etc). The intent of this list is to cut down on submittals and paperwork for both MDT and the contractors. This will help MDT's efforts to streamline the submittal process. MCA discussed possible concerns about the QPL changing during the life of the project. MDT assured MCA that this is not an issue, since the QPL would be applicable when the material arrives on the project, not at the time of the letting. There could be issues if the suppliers do not submit their items for addition to the QPL. Updates will be given as more progress is made.
2. **Contracts.** MDT informed MCA that all contracts are being received by contract plans. MDT asked that the Project Number and Location along with the contractor's information be included on the insurance policy. MDT also had some concerns about bonding companies taking apart the contract. MDT also informed MCA that there is an issue dealing with the Railroad companies having to approve of the policy before work on the project can begin. MCA stated that they will comply with the approval issues with the railroad companies.
3. **Addenda Process.** MDT stated that there have been some problems with the addenda process in the past lettings. FHWA has put together a committee to help streamline the process. Dave Sutton volunteered to represent MCA on this committee. The addenda seem to be generated from Q&A. MDT informed MCA that this leads to a timing issue. If a contractor has a question for Q&A on Monday before the letting, there is no way the question will be answered in a timely manner. This item will be kept on the agenda as further progress is made.

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Gravel.** MDT informed MCA that the supplemental specifications dealing with the 5A and 6A have been implemented. MCA had more comments and will be submitted to the MDT for review. MDT informed MCA that it will consider the comments and if needed, will look at reworking the specifications.
2. **Grade S Forum.** MDT informed MCA that the new special provision for Grade S plant mix has been implemented. MCA appreciated the opportunity to offer feedback during the Grade S forum that was held in January. This item will be dropped from the agenda.
3. **Final Inspection and Acceptance.** MDT informed MCA that they would be moving forward with the proposed specifications at this time. MDT feels that the new supplemental specifications will help clarify the final inspection and acceptance procedures. This group of proposed supplemental specifications should be implemented soon. This item will be dropped from the agenda next month.
4. **Claims Specification.** MDT stated that the new claims supplemental specification is currently out for comment at the moment. MCA will forward its comments to MDT by the

week following the Technical Committee Meeting.

5. **Electronic Bidding.** MDT gave an update on the status of the Electronic Bidding. MDT stated that setting up administrative rules for the digital signatures would take some time to get going. MDT is currently having some conflicts with the different interpretations of Third Party Verification. MDT hopes to be testing parallel lettings sometime this year.
6. **Erosion Control.** MCA is still having some issues with the current rate schedule for Erosion Control. MDT will begin meeting biannually to discuss changes to the rate schedule. The Erosion Control plans are still in the process of catching up to the newest BMP's. MCA felt that all the risk was being placed on the contractor with the current rate schedule. MDT suggested the use of a non-bid item for a six month test period to get the plans caught up and to give everyone an opportunity to get used to and understand the rate schedule. Bob Warren was appointed by MCA to represent MCA in the biannual meetings.
7. **Waterborne Paint.** MDT stated that the specifications dealing with all paints are undergoing massive revisions. Low VOC Paint will be included. The specifications dealing with paint will hopefully be out for comment in the next month or two.
8. **Traffic Control Payment Increase.** MDT stated that changes have been made to the rates for flaggers and pilot cars to accommodate the increase in the fringe rates. MDT received the contractors comments after the changes were made, but did evaluate the information received. MCA will look into the new traffic control prices and comment at the next meeting.
9. **Timely Test Results.** MCA requested a policy for 60-day turnaround time for test results to be adopted somehow. MDT thought this was a reasonable request and will work internally to ensure timely test results. MDT is in the process of identifying outliers in tests. MDT also wants to adopt a policy where the field crews distribute test results to the contractor as soon as they are received in the field. MDT feels that the Pre-Qualified List (PQL) will also help the turnaround time.

NEW BUSINESS MCA

1. **Q&A.** MCA felt that they were receiving inadequate responses on a few questions. MDT stated that, in March, all questions will be forwarded to the EPM on the project, the DCE in the district the project is located and the Design Project Manager. MCA would like to see the name of the person that answers the question. MDT will consider this.

The next meeting will be **March 24th, 2004**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the **MCA Office**.

cc:	Gene Kaufman, FHWA	Mike Sharp
	Joel Marshik	Suzy Althof
	James Walther	Carl Peil
	Mark Wissinger	Scott Barnes
	Matt Strizich	Kent Barnes
	MCA- Attn, Dee Dee Johnson	District Construction Engineers